

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 690**  
**ANSWERED ON 10/02/2025**

**EMPOWERMENT OF URBAN STAFF FOR BETTER CITY  
PLANNING MANAGEMENT**

**690. SMT. MAMATA MOHANTA:**

**Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) the manner in which Government envisions the future of urban staff working in harmony with advanced smart city technologies;
- (b) whether there are any specific programs aimed at encouraging gender equality and the empowerment of women in urban planning roles;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the details of city selected in smart city from the State of Odisha under this scheme; and
- (e) the details of fund sanctioned and released for the State of Odisha under the scheme if any?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (c): Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is implementing Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), which was launched on 25 June 2015. Smart elements, components and technologies are part of AMRUT projects and this aims to promote sustainable urban development. AMRUT guidelines provides for smart elements such as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) as part of the water supply and sewerage projects. As reported by States/ Union Territories (UTs), 230 Water supply projects and 146 Sewerage projects have been implemented with SCADA

Technology Sub-Mission is an important component of AMRUT 2.0 to encourage start-up ideas and private entrepreneurship, and commissioning them into the pilot projects. As reported by States/UTs under AMRUT 2.0, 1482 water supply projects, 241 Sewerage projects are approved with SCADA.

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MoHUA is supporting States/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) in capacity building activities through various Schemes of the Ministry such as Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), for improving the capacities of ULB functionaries, elected representatives, etc., which includes all sections of the society including women. Under AMRUT, against the target of 45000 functionaries, 57134 functionaries have already been trained so far. Under AMRUT 2.0, capacity building programs are conducted for all stakeholders including contractors, plumbers, plant operators, students, women and citizens.

MoHUA has designated 4 Institutes in different regions as Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Urban Planning and Design, which inter alia impart certified trainings/ certified courses to Civil Servants, State Town Planners, Municipal Officials, practitioners/professionals, young students etc. These centres have been provided endowment funds of ₹ 250 crore each.

Besides, MoHUA has also designated 6 institutes as AMRUT Funded Centre of Urban Planning for Capacity Building. The role envisaged for these institutes inter alia includes subject specific trainings to Municipal officials/ Town and Country Planning officials, augmenting capacity building of State / Local authorities and hand hold them in urban planning.

Under AMRUT 2.0, Ministry has also launched AMRUT Mitra initiative which involves women Self Help Groups (SHGs) in water demand management, water quality testing, water infrastructure operations, and other water sectoral projects. So far, 1762 projects worth ₹140 crore have been approved under this initiative.

(d) & (e): Under the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), two cities, viz. Rourkela and Bhubaneswar have been selected in the State of Odisha. Bhubaneswar was selected in Round-1, while Rourkela was selected in Round-2 of selection process.

As per SCM Guidelines, Central Government is to provide financial support to the extent of ₹48,000 crore to 100 Cities under SCM, i.e., on an average of ₹ 500 crore per city. The Central Government has released 100% of the permissible Government of India funds to both the cities selected under SCM in the State of Odisha.

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